

spring/summer 2011

# CHICAGO

## OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE



Discover Our  
**SPECTACULAR 7**  
Must-Dos

Get A Taste of  
CHICAGO'S CULINARY  
CHARACTER

Plus Explore Chicago's Museums,  
Theaters, Shopping, Sports & Tours

**CHICAGO**  
Convention & Tourism Bureau

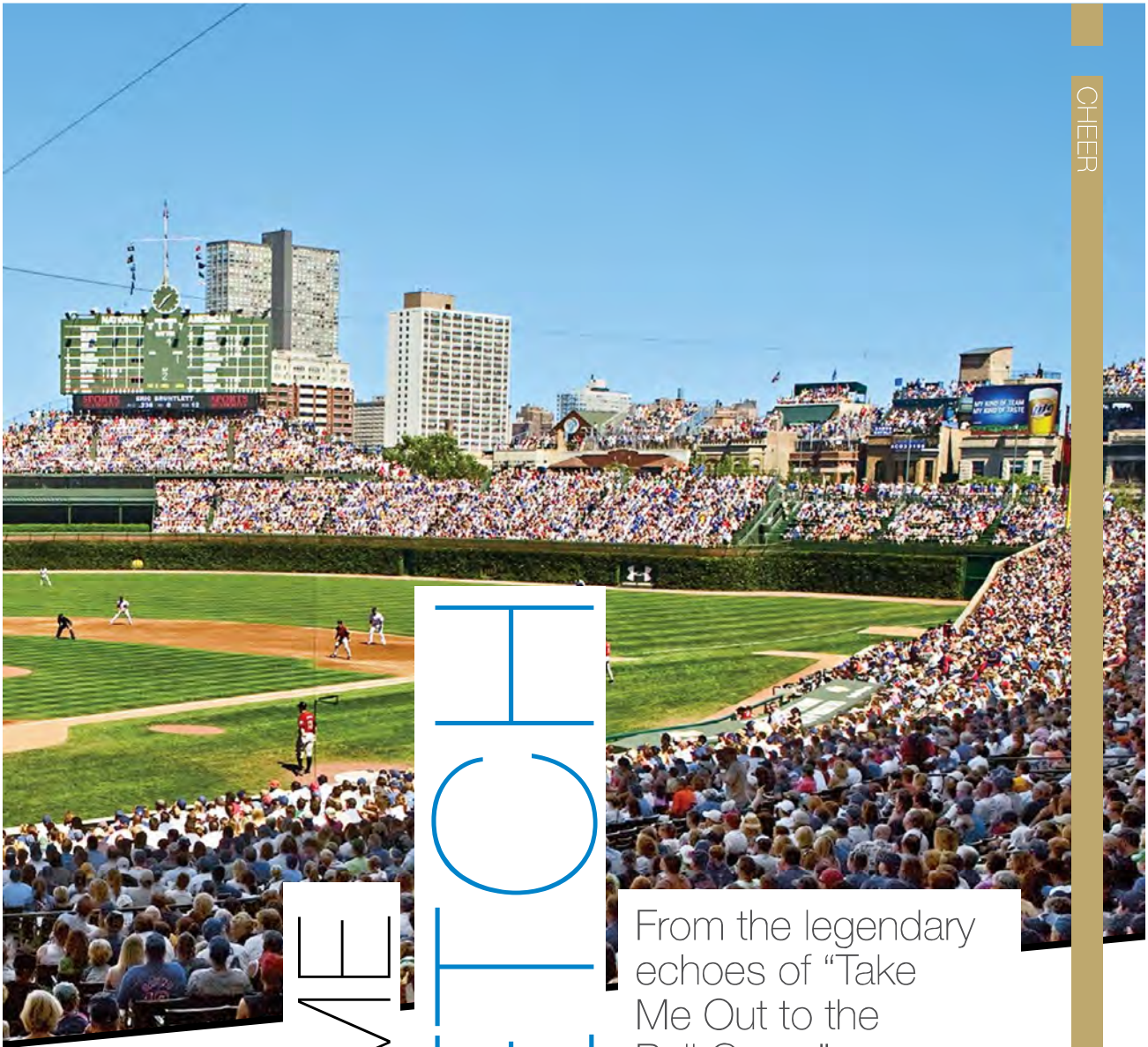
[ChooseChicago.com](http://ChooseChicago.com)



Top: The Cubs play defense at Wrigley Field. Bottom:  
A White Sox player signs autographs for fans.







THE HOME

STREET

From the legendary echoes of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” sung during the Chicago Cubs' seventh-inning stretch to the spectacular fireworks celebrating a Chicago White Sox home run, game days always leave you cheering for more. After all, baseball is more than just entertainment in Chicago – it's a way of life. →

From left: Fans watch from Wrigleyville Rooftops; Southpaw, the White Sox mascot; a brass band performs outside Wrigley Field.



→ As one of only a few U.S. cities with two Major League Baseball (MLB) teams, Chicago's north and south sides are in full swing all summer long.

### The North Siders' Nirvana

The Chicago Cubs call Wrigley Field home. It's the second-oldest MLB ballpark in the U.S. and is located in the heart of Chicago in a neighborhood aptly called Wrigleyville. This neighborhood comes alive on game day and gives off an absolutely contagious energy – a fever pitch – to which no one is immune. For hours before and after a game, the streets are teeming with baseball fans filling up on food, drink, and festivities. In fact, being in Wrigleyville on game day is just as much fun as the game itself. So make sure you explore this iconic Chicago neighborhood *and* watch the game. It's an unbeatable experience!

Once inside the park, you'll be greeted by a beautiful space adorned with ivy-covered brick walls and a historic scoreboard that's still updated by hand today. You'll also get to sample classic Chicago foods like Vienna beef hot dogs and pizza from a local pizzeria, along with frozen custard, drinks, and, of course, beer. Also, for the adults in your group, make a special stop at the Captain Morgan Club that's attached to the ballpark, which is open to fans with or without tickets.

### If you're a baseball diehard, make plans to be in Chicago August 19-21 to see both teams play on the same day.

Bringing kids to the game? Get first-timer certificates and stickers at Fan Services. Or get there early (gates open two hours before the first pitch) to give your fans 12 and younger the chance to join the Quaker Chewy Kids Corral, where 30 kids are randomly selected to watch pre-game batting practice from the field.

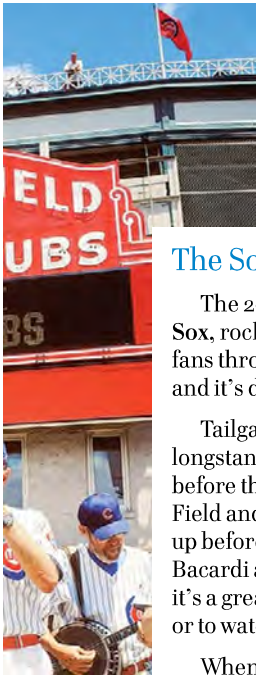
For the ultimate Cubs game experience, grab a spot in the bleachers. This lively section offers great views of the stadium and gives you the chance to soak up the sun while following the game. Get there early, though – seats are unassigned.

Tickets can be purchased at Advanced Ticket Sales windows outside Gate F, online at Cubs.com, or by calling 800-843-2827 (within Illinois) or 866-652-2827 (outside Illinois).

There are also several buildings surrounding Wrigley Field that have created special rooftops for watching the game. These establishments are managed by private companies, such as Wrigleyville Rooftops, and have bleacher seating with great views. Group and individual tickets are available and usually include food and drink.

Take your Cubs experience to the next level with amazing daily behind-the-scenes tours of the ballpark. Possible stops include the press box, clubhouses, and dugouts, as well as a chance to step onto the field. You can also take specialized tours, including the Alumni Guided Tour during which former players share the secrets and legends of this spectacular stadium.





## The South Siders' Sweet Spot

The 2005 World Series Champions, the **Chicago White Sox**, rock the spectacular **U.S. Cellular Field** and their fans throughout the season. This is baseball at its finest, and it's definitely an experience not to be missed.

Tailgating is the perfect way to get in the spirit. This longstanding and encouraged tradition starts two hours before the game in the parking lots outside of U.S. Cellular Field and gives you the chance to join locals grilling it up before game time. Be sure to also check out the new Bacardi at the Park. A crosswalk away from the stadium, it's a great place to meet up with friends before the game or to watch the game if you don't have tickets.

When game time comes, get ready to get into the spirit. The Chevrolet Pride Crew conducts pre-game and in-game fan interactive games and contests from the field, dugouts, and around the stadium. Plus, the White Sox have many theme days such as Country Music Night, '70s Night, Beach Bash, and even Mullet Night. Some theme days also have special fireworks shows and give you the chance to dress up. So dig that mullet wig out of your closet and get ready to strut your stuff!

Speaking of fireworks, you'll have many opportunities to watch the sky light up during a Sox game. Fireworks are set off before every game, after Sox home runs, and after every Sox victory. Larger fireworks shows are also held after designated games.

The younger fans in your group will find plenty to do in addition to watching the game. The 15,000-square-foot Comcast Fundamentals area is devoted to your soon-to-be baseball stars and provides coaching clinics, practice areas, and skills instruction. There are even speed-pitch machines with radar guns.

Tickets are available at the U.S. Cellular Field Box Office, online at [WhiteSox.com](http://WhiteSox.com), or by calling the White Sox Ticket Office at 866-769-4263.

U.S. Cellular Field also does exciting behind-the-scenes tours for groups of 10 or more on Tuesdays and Fridays (10:30 a.m. on game days and 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on non-game days). You'll get to see the home dugout, the press box, the field, the suites, and the Stadium Club. Advance reservations are required.

If you're a baseball diehard, then make plans to be in Chicago the weekend of August 19 -21. That's the only weekend this season that both the Cubs and Sox are in town at the same time, so you could see both teams play on the same day. Also, mark your calendar for the ever-famous Crosstown Classic this summer when the Chicago Cubs take on the Chicago White Sox for six games (three at Wrigley Field and three at U.S. Cellular).

Like we said: In Chicago, baseball is a way of life. 🍌

# Playing With FIRE

Catch the blazing action of the **Chicago Fire Soccer Club** at **Toyota Park**, southwest of downtown. The wildly enthusiastic fans will get you singing your heart out, and the hot action on the field will keep you on the edge of your seat!

One fan club in particular, Section 8 Chicago, has built a reputation for its undying support of the team. Prepare to be amazed by their massive colorful displays and nonstop chanting. Plus, stop by the Section 8 tailgate and fill up before the game. If you're truly adventurous, hop on a beer bus from a participating bar downtown for \$10 and get festive transportation – with beer, of course – to and from the game. Visit [section8chicago.com](http://section8chicago.com) for details.

This summer is extra-special for the Fire. On July 23, Soldier Field will open its doors for soccer history in the making. Chicago Fire boss Carlos de los Cobos and his players will go head-to-head with the famous Manchester United Football Club in a special game that will live in your soul for years to come. Get your tickets online at [Chicago-Fire.com](http://Chicago-Fire.com) or by phone at 888-657-3473.

